

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 03198 200237Z
ACTION PC-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

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PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID BG
SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS NEGOTIATIONS

REFS. A. DACCA 2634, B. STATE 121549

1. MAJID OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES DIVISION SENT LETTER
DATED MAY 18 TO EMBOFF REPORTING THAT DRAFT MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PEACE CORPS' PROGRAM HAD "AGAIN
BEEN EXAMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE RELEVANT AGENCY
(NOTE PRESUMABLY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVENUE) OF
THE GOVERNMENT AT A HIGHER LEVEL" AND SUGGESTING
THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS.

2. "PARAGRAPH 4: THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE REDRAFTED AS
FOLLOWS:

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH WILL EXEMPT FROM TAXES,
CUSTOMS DUTIES AND OTHER CHARGES EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
INTRODUCED INTO BANGLADESH BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, OR ANY CONTRACTOR FINANCED BY IT, AND USED
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF
PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE AND ITS MAINTENANCE.

PARAGRAPH 5: THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE REDRAFTED AS FOLLOWS:
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5(A) THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH WILL EXEMPT PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEER LEADERS, THE PEACE CORPS
REPRESENTATIVE AND STAFF, AND PERSONNEL OF UNITED STATES
PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS PERFORMING FUNCTIONS UNDER THIS
AGREEMENT FROM IMMIGRATION FEES, FROM ALL TAXES ON INCOME

DERIVED FROM THEIR PEACE CORPS WORK OR FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE OF BANGLADESH AND FROM ALL OTHER TAXES, CHARGES AND FEES, EXCEPT LICENCE FEES AND TAXES OR OTHER CHARGES OR FEES INCLUDED IN THE PRICES OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES. 5(B) THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH WILL ACCORD THE PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF THE SAME TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES, OR OTHER CHARGES,

ON THEIR PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS INTRODUCED INTO BANGLADESH FOR THEIR OWN USE AT ANYTIME DURING THEIR STAY IN BANGLADESH AS IN ACCORDED PERSONNEL OF COMPARABLE RANK OR GRADE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES.

5(C) THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH WILL ALLOW PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEER LEADERS, AND PERSONNEL OF THE UNITED STATES PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES PERFORMING FUNCTIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT THE PRIVILEGES UNDER R.S.O. NO. 133/D/CUS/74 DATED THE 14TH MARCH, 1974 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS LAID DOWN THEREIN. PARAGRAPH 6: WE NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED TO CHANGING THE PERTINENT PORTION OF PARAGRAPH 6 AS SUGGESTED IN MY LETTER OF MARCH 7, 1978."

3. LETTER THEN ADDS FOLLOWING:

"I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO ADD THAT THE EXPRESSION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REDRAFTED PARAGRAPH 4: 'EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES INTRODUCED IN BANGLADESH' WILL INCLUDE TO MEAN 'EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES ACQUIRED IN BANGLADESH FROM PRIVILEGED SOURCES.' I MAY FURTHER ADD THAT THE PRIVILEGES SOUGHT TO BE GRANTED UNDER REDRAFTED PARAGRAPH 4 AND PARAGRAPH 5(B) ARE RATHER UNIQUE IN NATURE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED TO ITS INCORPORATION ONLY IN VIEW OF COMPARABLE PROVISIONS IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT DATED MAY 21, 1974 GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF USAID IN BANGLADESH. SUCH PRIVILEGES ARE GENERALLY NOT GRANTED TO ANY OTHER AID AGENCY OR FOREIGN ESTABLISHMENT. IT MAY, THEREFORE, BE UNDERSTOOD ANY FUTURE CHANGE IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT DATED MAY 21, 1974 WILL SIMILARLY AFFECT THE PROVISIONS UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING."

4. COMMENT: ON INITIAL EXAMINATION IT APPEARS THAT THE PROPOSED RE-DRAFTING MEETS EMBASSY AND PC/W CONCERNS. PC REP AND IMMEDIATE STAFF (IF ANY) WOULD BE ACCORDED SAME TREATMENT AS COMPARABLE GRADES OF EMBASSY STAFF. WE BELIEVE THAT SRO 133 WILL PERMIT DUTY FREE ENTRY OF PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF VOLUNTEERS AT OR ABOUT THE TIME OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN

BANGLADESH BUT WILL CONFIRM NEXT WEEK. THE CAVEAT AT THE END OF PARA 3 ABOVE DOES NOT APPEAR FOREBODINGAS THE REFERENCE IS TO THE BASIC US/BDG BILATERAL AID AGREEMENT.

5. POLCOUNS WAS INFORMED BEFORE HE WENT ON LEAVE THAT AMB. SIDDIQI MIGHT BE DESIGNATED TO SIGN IN WASHINGTON FOR BDG. NONETHELESS WE WOULD ASSUME THAT A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THIS EMBASSY TO ERD INDICATING U.S. ASSENT, OR REQUESTING FURTHER MODIFICATION IF NECESSARY, WOULD BE NEXT STEP.

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